

Report

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Report to:	Enterprise Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 January 2017
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Community Benefit Funds – Grant Applications
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider grant applications to various Community Benefit Funds operating across South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Kirkfieldbank Community Group of up to £50,023 from Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund towards the Kirkfieldbank Park Project;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council of up to £28,227 from Dungavel Renewable Energy Fund towards the Sandford Swing Park project; and
- (3) that a grant from Clyde Windfarm be awarded to Upper Clyde Farmers Club of up to £94,485 to deliver a study into the causes and treatment of Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA).

3. Background

3.1 Since 2004, the Council has collected and administered Community Benefit funding through Planning and Economic Development Services who are responsible for securing the contributions from developers, advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered.

3.2. Details of all grant awards, including those grants which had been approved by the Head of Planning and Economic Development Services under delegated authority, are reported annually to the Enterprise Services Committee.

4. Proposals

4.1. Blacklaw Renewable Energy Fund
Kirkfieldbank Community Group – Kirkfieldbank Park Project
Project Cost – £153,023
Proposed Grant Award – £50,023

- 4.2. Kirkfieldbank Community Group was formed in 2014 and provides a forum for identifying and acting upon issues relevant to the village of Kirkfieldbank. The group undertakes projects to enhance the locality for the benefit of residents and visitors with a particular focus on improving communal areas.
- 4.3. This project involves the upgrading of Kirkfieldbank Park to a fully inclusive playpark and sensory garden development, accessible to all members of the community. The park has been designed by the council's Land Services, working with Kirkfieldbank Community Group, following a period of public consultation. The playpark will comprise two separate areas, one securely fenced for toddlers and one for older children. The sensory garden will incorporate seating, planters and wildlife features.
- 4.4. The application scored 31 / 50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up 35%. The grant requested is 32% of the total project costs and falls within the permitted level. The remaining funds are from Viridor, Tesco and Planning Gain funds. The project is scheduled to commence in April 2017 and be completed in July 2017.
- 4.5. Dungavel Renewable Energy Fund
Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council – Sandford Swing Park
Project Cost – £74,991
Proposed Grant Award – £28,227
- 4.6. Sandford and Upper Avondale aims to represent the whole community and facilitate and support projects and events which benefit the health and wellbeing of its residents.
- 4.7. The aim of this project is to renovate and improve the existing park, creating an inclusive, active play area. The park has been designed by the Council's Land Services, working with the applicant and will incorporate designated equipment for a variety of age groups and abilities such as swings and seesaws for pre-school, an assault course for primary school children and a high wire for older children. The equipment has been designed to be fully inclusive, accessible to all children. The site will be greatly improved and provide a very much needed and wanted amenity.
- 4.8. The application scored 33.5 / 50 during the assessment process which permits an intervention rate of up 40%. The grant requested is 37.6% of the total project costs and falls within the permitted level. The balance of funding comes from Viridor. The project is scheduled to commence in March 2017 and be completed in August 2017.
- 4.9. Clyde Windfarm Community Fund
Upper Clyde Farmers Club – Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA) Sheep Study
Project Cost – £188,970
Proposed Grant Award – £94,485
- 4.10. Upper Clyde Farmers Club comprises all of the farmers (14), or their shepherds, in the Crawford Parish. It was formed to promote the health of the sheep in the area and, in particular, to try to eradicate OPA, a disease that affects the respiratory system of the animal, from sheep flocks.

- 4.11. The project will involve the veterinary scanning of sheep flocks, follow up examinations and treatment to ascertain biological identification factors for sheep with OPA. Infected sheep are usually culled as they become ill. The study seeks to advance the understanding of the disease; provide information for the selection of breeding stock and possible treatment regimes. Sheep will be assessed to determine the scale of the disease, any trends, and ongoing treatments to monitor their effectiveness. As the study progresses, and there is a greater understanding of the disease, those who will be trained in the scanning will become proficient in the pre-selection of potential OPA positive sheep.
- 4.12. It is acknowledged that this is an unusual grant application. Nonetheless, it is recognised that livestock farming is an integral part of rural life and economy. Further, sheep farming is an important land use in the rural area, helping manage the landscape and, in turn, creating habitats for wildlife. Rural villages and their inhabitants are closely linked to the industry either through direct employment or the benefits of managing the landscape - recreation, visitors, and the direct and wider indirect input to community wellbeing. It is noted through community consultation that there is broad support for this proposal.
- 4.13. This application scored 62% during the assessment process. This allows a grant of up to 50% of project costs to be offered, equating to a grant of up to £94,485 from the Clyde Windfarm Community Fund. The match funding is being met from the applicant group (£46,947), BCF Technology (£5,735), Moredun (£29,012) and Scottish Government (£12,792) ,

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Each of the Community Benefit Funds listed have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitments detailed in this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There is no risk to the Council in supporting this proposal and the work can be undertaken within existing resources. By not proceeding the Council would not be acting consistently in support of its adopted policy and there would be a risk that the funds would not be distributed timeously and equitably to appropriate, eligible community organisations.
- 7.2. The risks associated with the individual projects are focussed on the potential for cost overruns or delays to the programme. The applicants have indicated that any cost increases will be managed within their present budget subject to agreement on any changes to the proposed project. This is highly unlikely to have an impact on the Council.
- 7.3. Delays to the programme will have no impact on the Council.
- 7.4. Without the contribution from the Community Benefit Funds, it is highly unlikely that these projects will proceed.
- 7.5. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. All necessary consultation arrangements, including community consultations, have taken place.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

5 December 2016

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Improve health and increase physical activity
- ◆ Develop a sustainable Council and communities
- ◆ Strengthen partnership working, community leadership and engagement
- ◆ Tackle disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ People focused
- ◆ Efficient and effective use of resources

Previous References

- ◆ Enterprise Services Committee 17 May 2016

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Completed online REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated November 2016 received from Kirkfieldbank Community Group.
- ◆ Completed online REF assessment form dated November 2016.
- ◆ Completed online REF Grant Application Form and associated information dated November 2016 received from Sandford and Upper Avondale Community Council.
- ◆ Completed online REF assessment form dated November 2016.
- ◆ Completed Clyde Windfarm Fund Grant Application Form and associated information received August 2016.
- ◆ Completed Clyde Windfarm Fund Assessment Form and Community Consultation responses dated November 2016

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:- Ken Meek, Project Manager

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